

Essays on conflict-related migration and development in the case of Afghanistan

Citation for published version (APA):

Loschmann, C. (2016). *Essays on conflict-related migration and development in the case of Afghanistan*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Boekenplan Maastricht. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20161014cl>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2016

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20161014cl](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20161014cl)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE DISSERTATION:

Essays on Conflict-related Migration and Development in the Case of Afghanistan

by Craig Loschmann

1. The New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM) and livelihoods approach allows us to move beyond a simple economic interpretation of migration which fails to take into account broader aspects crucial to the understanding of migration and development in a conflict-affected setting. Just as important though, it also provides a lens with which to view conflict-related migration that is not strictly framed within a paradigm of conflict, and therefore does not discount the notion of migration as normal behavior.
2. Given the inherent costs and risks in leaving ones' home, households seem to have a realistic understanding about their capabilities to actually migrate, ultimately shaping their expectations and aspirations. This is in line with those hypotheses put forth by the NELM, in that it is not the "poorest of the poor", or more appropriately for our purposes the "most vulnerable of the vulnerable", that see migration as a possibility.
3. The sending of household members abroad as a risk-coping strategy may be less about having an alternative source of income, and more about having an alternative location to escape to if the security situation happens to take a turn for the worse.
4. The fact that internally displaced households are a vulnerable sub-group within the population at large is not an unexpected revelation. What is salient, however, is the extent to which children of displaced households may be particularly afflicted, and the consequences this may have in the long-term.
5. The reintegration of returnees in a (post-) conflict setting greatly depends on their ability to access sustainable income-generating activities as a basis for their livelihood.
6. The application of a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement, in order to holistically measure the impact on household well-being over a range of socio-economic indicators, is arguably more relevant for analyzing programs where the objectives are multifaceted.

7. There are potentially very few, if any, ready-made solutions to some of the most important development-related problems throughout the world. Nonetheless, small-scale trial and error has the power to provide essential insight.
 8. In the social sciences, we study a moving target where the relevant factors within a particular environment are constantly in flux.
 9. “Meaning requires content, content requires time, time requires resistance. Knowledge is distance, knowledge is stasis and the enemy of meaning.”
 - Karl Ove Knausgard (2012, p. 9-10). *A Death in the Family: My Struggle*, Book 1.
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